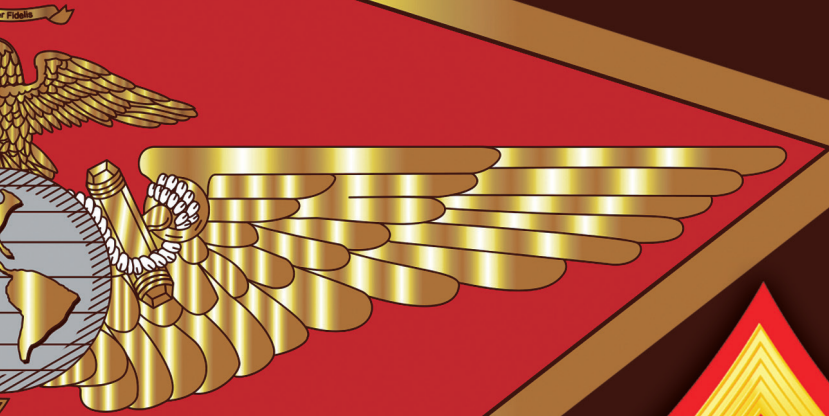


Relief and Appointment

July 20, 2020
San Diego







The Commanding General

of

3d Marine Aircraft Wing

welcomes you

to the

Relief and Appointment Ceremony

during which

Sergeant Major Peter A. Siaw

will relinquish his post to

Sergeant Major David A. Wilson



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Invocation

National Anthem

Honors to Major General Kevin M. Iiams

Relief and Appointment

Remarks by Major General Kevin M. Iiams

Remarks by SgtMaj Peter A. Siaw

Remarks by SgtMaj David A. Wilson

Anchors Aweigh

Marines' Hymn



THE GRADE OF SERGEANT MAJOR

The grade of Sergeant Major dates back to the thirteenth century when the title applied to the chief tenant of the knight's military retinue. The grade is peculiar in that it has at various times been applied to commissioned officers as well as non-commissioned officers. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Sergeant Major was a field officer below the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, equivalent to a Major today, who usually performed duties as adjutant. In mid-seventeenth century England under Cromwell, a Sergeant Major was actually a General Officer rank equivalent to today's Major General. From the eighteenth century to the present, Sergeant Major has become the title of the highest NCO grade in the military.

Whether the grade was that of a commissioned or non-commissioned officer, the responsibilities of the rank have always been those of superintendence over the organization's drill, discipline, morale and administration.

In the Marine Corps, the grade was created by Congress in 1798. The first incumbent was Sergeant Major Archibald Summers. For exactly a century, until the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Corps had but one Sergeant Major billet which is the origin of today's post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

PASSING OF THE SWORD

Since 1875 non-commissioned and staff non-commissioned officers have carried the non-commissioned officer sword as a symbol of their ability and prestige as enlisted leaders of the Marine Corps. The Sergeant Major as the senior enlisted leader and advisor is the keeper of traditions for his/her unit. Today's emblematic passing of the sword of office signifies the transfer of this sacred trust from one Sergeant Major to another.



Sergeant Major Siaw reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California, in April 1993, for recruit training. Upon graduation, he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. Upon completion of Personnel Administration School in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, he was assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron 6, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing in Cherry Point, North Carolina.

In June 1997, he reported to Drill Instructor School, Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, California, and continued to serve as a Junior Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Marine

Corps History Instructor/Curriculum Developer, and Staff Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Academic Instruction Unit. In July 1999, he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and in September 2000, he was selected as the MCRD San Diego Drill Instructor of the Year. In October 2000, he was selected as the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Drill Instructor of the Year and subsequently promoted meritoriously to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. In September 2001, he reported to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Iwakuni, Japan to serve as the Staff Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Station Orders Department and Adjutant Chief for Marine Aircraft Group 12. He was selected to the rank of First Sergeant in December 2003.

In April 2004, he reported to 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii to serve as the First Sergeant for Bravo Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/3, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. In June 2004, he deployed in support of the Unit Deployment Program and subsequently, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II, for combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq. In November 2004, he served in Operation AL FAJR / PHANTOM FURY and in January 2005, served in combat and security operations for the first Iraqi elections. In July 2005, he assumed duties as the First Sergeant for Weapons Company, 1st Battalion 3d Marines and deployed in January 2006 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM for combat operations in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. In September 2006, he reported to Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division in Saint Paul, Minnesota to serve as the Inspector-Instructor First Sergeant, and was selected to the rank of Sergeant Major in November 2006.

In December 2007, he reported for duty as the Sergeant Major for Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing in Miramar, California and deployed in support of the Unit Deployment Program to the Western Pacific. In September 2009, he reported for duty as the Sergeant Major for 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, California, and deployed in May 2010 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM for combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. In February 2011, he reported for duty as the Sergeant Major for 2d Recruit Training Battalion and in April 2012, assumed duties as the Sergeant Major for Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD San Diego, California.

In March 2014, he reported for duty as the Sergeant Major for Education Command / Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia. In February 2016, he reported for duty as the Sergeant Major for Marine Corps Installations Pacific-Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan.

In April 2018, he reported for duty as the Sergeant Major for 3d Marine Aircraft Wing in Miramar, California.

Sergeant Major Siaw's personal awards include the Legion of Merit (gold star in lieu of third award), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (gold star in lieu of third award), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (gold star in lieu of second award), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of third award), and the Combat Action Ribbon (gold star in lieu of second award).



SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID A. WILSON

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Sergeant Major Wilson enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1994 and conducted Recruit Training at MCRD San Diego. Upon completion, he reported to the School of Infantry where he earned the MOS 0311 and was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class. Upon graduation, he reported to Company K, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines where he served as an Automatic Rifleman, Team Leader and Squad Leader. During his tour, he deployed twice to Okinawa, Japan and was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal, Corporal, and Sergeant.

In March of 1998, Sergeant Wilson reported to Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego and graduated first in his class. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion where he served as a Drill Instructor/Senior Drill Instructor as well as a Water Survival Instructor. During this tour he was meritoriously promoted to Staff Sergeant. Upon completion of his tour, he attended the SNCO Career Course and graduated first in his class.

Staff Sergeant Wilson reported to Lima Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines in August of 2001 where he served as Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant for 3d Platoon and deployed to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as part of the 11th MEU. Upon return, he was immediately re-deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He returned to CONUS in May 2003 and was assigned as the Company Gunnery Sergeant for Lima Company. Shortly after, he was selected for the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and attended the SNCO Advanced Course where he once again graduated first in his class.

In June 2004 he deployed to Iraq a second time. During this deployment, he participated in the battle of Fallujah as part of Operation AL FAJR/PHANTOM FURY. Throughout this period, he served as Company Gunnery Sergeant and Company First Sergeant.

In April 2005 Gunnery Sergeant Wilson was transferred to the SNCO Academy, where he served as a Faculty Advisor/Instructor for the Career Course as well as Chief Instructor for the Advanced Course. During his assignment, he earned his Master Instructor Certification and was selected as the 2006 Instructor of the Year.

In December 2006, he was selected for the rank of First Sergeant and received orders to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines as the Weapons Company First Sergeant. In June 2007 he deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. In May 2009, he deployed to the Helmand Province of Afghanistan where he was assigned as the Charlie Company First Sergeant. During this tour, he participated in combat operations in the Nawa District as a part of Operation KHANJARI.

In May 2010, First Sergeant Wilson was assigned to Inspector-Instructor duty in San Jose, California. In September 2011 he attended the Senior Enlisted PME Course in Quantico, Virginia where he earned the Excellence in Speech & Writing Award.

In May 2012, he was promoted to Sergeant Major and assigned as the Squadron Sergeant Major for Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 311 in Yuma, Arizona. He again deployed to Afghanistan from April to September 2013. In 2014, VMA-311 was recognized by the Marine Corps Aviation Association as the Marine Attack Squadron of the Year.

In March 2015, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

In November 2015, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group Sergeant Major. The unit was re-designated as I Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group in July 2017.

In February 2018, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of U.S. Marine Corps Training Command.

In July 2020, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

Sergeant Major Wilson's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (fourth award) with Valor Device, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (second award) with Valor Device, and the Combat Action Ribbon (second award).



THIRD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING HISTORY

The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) was commissioned on the 167th anniversary of the Marine Corps, November 10, 1942, at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina with a personnel roster of 13 officers, 25 enlisted men and one aircraft-a trainer.

The Wing's combat history began with the World War II deployment of a bomber squadron on December 3, 1943. A little more than a year later, the Wing deployed a night fighter squadron in support of the war effort.

On April 21, 1944, the Wing boarded three carriers for a voyage to Hawaii and arrived May 8, where it assumed the functions of Marine Air, Hawaii Area. When the Japanese surrendered, 3d MAW was decommissioned and its personnel were assigned to other units. The Wing had played an important, but behind-the-scenes, role in defeating the Japanese by giving the best training available to Marine pilots and support personnel.

In 1952, as the Corps again fought in the Far East, the Wing was reactivated at Cherry Point for the Korean War. The main portion of the Wing began moving to the new MCAS Miami, Florida- the Marine Corps' first "flying field."

In September 1955, the Wing left Miami for MCAS El Toro, California. 3d MAW was rebuilt again, with the addition of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 15, followed by MAG-36 with its helicopter squadrons at a nearby Air Station in Santa Ana, California. Wing squadrons were detached and deployed to Vietnam as combat action in Southeast Asia flared. At the end of the Vietnam War several units were brought back to the United States and deactivated or re-designated, creating the 3d MAW of today.

The Wing saw action again as part of I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), conducting operations in Iraq and Kuwait during Operation DESERT SHIELD, Operation DESERT STORM, and Operation SABER. After the end of hostilities, 3d MAW aircraft provided support in Operation PROVIDE COMFORT and Operation SOUTHERN WATCH over Iraq. The Wing was once more called into service in Somalia for Operation RESTORE HOPE.

The fall of 2001 would reveal a new type of challenge, the Global War on Terrorism, and 3d MAW answered the call again by deploying units in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM both in Afghanistan and neighboring countries. Beginning in the fall of 2002, 3d MAW deployed forces to Kuwait in preparation for combat operations in Iraq. 3d MAW provided decisive aviation fires for I MEF and coalition forces in liberation of Iraq during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and subsequent stability operations. The 3d MAW continued to deploy in support of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to include the 3d MAW (Forward) Aviation Combat Element Headquarters at Camp Leatherneck, Regional Command Southwest, Afghanistan in 2010, 2012, and 2014, the latter of which planned and executed the withdrawal of Marine Aviation Forces from the Helmand Province and subsequent end to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Today, the Marines and Sailors of 3d MAW are deployed on land and sea conducting combat operations in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq and Syria and Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT in Afghanistan, and are forward deployed and ready to respond to any ongoing or emerging crisis or contingency. The 3d MAW has a well-proven, colorful battle history. As part of the nation's force in readiness, the Marines and Sailors of 3d MAW stand prepared to meet any and all challenges the future may bring. PREPARED IN PEACE AND WAR- SEMPER FIDELIS.



SERGEANTS MAJOR

Sergeant Major L. Pichler	Mar 1981 - Jun 1984
Sergeant Major J. J. Nozar	Jun 1984 - July 1985
Sergeant Major J. D. Federmeyer	July 1985 - Aug 1988
Sergeant Major S. L. Rhodes	Aug 1988 - Apr 1990
Sergeant Major F. T. Pattee	Apr 1990 - Aug 1992
Sergeant Major G. E. Richter	Aug 1992 - Jan 1993
Sergeant Major T. J. Chauvin	Jan 1993 - Sept 1994
Sergeant Major D. J. Bradley	Sept 1994 - Jan 1996
Sergeant Major M. J. Niuatoa	Jan 1996 - Jul 1997
Sergeant Major P. D. Czech	Jul 1997 - Oct 1997
Sergeant Major W. A. Coffey Jr.	Oct 1997 - Jul 2000
Sergeant Major D. R. Franklin	Jul 2000 - Dec 2001
Sergeant Major J. L. Estrada	Dec 2001 - May 2003
Sergeant Major D. W. Reed	May 2003 - Mar 2007
Sergeant Major L. M. Espinal	Mar 2007 - Aug 2009
Sergeant Major D. W. Gallagher	Aug 2009 - Aug 2011
Sergeant Major A. A. Spadaro	Aug 2011 - Sept 2013
Sergeant Major P. L. Kimble	Sept 2013 - May 2016
Sergeant Major J. K. Porterfield	May 2016 - Apr 2018
Sergeant Major P. A. Siaw	Apr 2018 - Jul 2020
Sergeant Major D. A. Wilson	Jul 2020 - Present





Marines' Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
UNITED STATES MARINE
Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
THE UNITED STATES MARINES
Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded by
UNITED STATES MARINES

